

Amendments

In the claims:

- 1.) (currently amended) An ear coupler comprising:
an annular side wall;
a bottom wall, integral with said annular side wall;
an internal chamber, formed by said bottom wall and
said annular side wall;
a port in said annular side wall; and
a highly flexible flange extending from and
substantially around said annular side wall.
- 2.) (original) The ear coupler of claim 1, wherein said annular side wall
and said bottom wall are transparent.
- 3.) (original) The ear coupler according to claim 1 or 2, additionally
comprising ribs in said annular side wall.
- 4.) (original) The ear coupler according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said
bottom wall contains surface features.
- 5.) (original) The ear coupler according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said
bottom wall contains a target to aid in placing the coupler
over the subject's ear.
- 6.) (previously amended) The ear coupler according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said
highly flexible flange is coated with adhesive, and wherein
said highly flexible flange includes a barrier for
containment of said adhesive.

- 7.) (previously amended) The ear coupler according to claim 6, wherein said flexible flange additionally includes a second set of surface features to aid in coating said flexible flange with said adhesive.
- 8.) (original) The ear coupler according to claim 1 or 2, additionally comprising an acoustic transducer assembly adapted to removably fit in said port.
- 9.) (original) The ear coupler according to claim 8, wherein there is an interference fit between said acoustic transducer assembly and said port.
- 10.) (original) The ear coupler according to claim 9, wherein when said acoustic transducer assembly is fitted in said port, the acoustic transducer assembly mates with the ribs in said annular side wall.
- 11.) (original) The ear coupler according to claim 10, wherein said acoustic transducer assembly can mate in either an up or down position with said ribs in said annular side wall.
- 12.) (original) The ear coupler according to claim 11, wherein said acoustic transducer can be switched between mating positions during use.
- 13.) (previously amended) The ear coupler according to claim 1 or 2, additionally comprising a tab integral with said highly flexible flange

- 14.) (previously amended) An ear coupler comprising:
an annular side wall;
a bottom wall, integral with said annular side wall;
an internal chamber, formed by said bottom wall and
said annular side wall;
a port in said annular side wall; and
a highly flexible flange extending from and
substantially around said annular side wall, said
flange being coated with adhesive, and having a
barrier for containment of said adhesive.
- 15.) (canceled)
- 16.) (canceled)
- 17.) (original) An ear coupler comprising a one-piece body, said body
having:
an internal chamber,
a port in communication with said chamber, and
a means for removably attaching the ear coupler to a
subject's head.
- 18.) (original) The ear coupler according to claim 17, wherein said ear
coupler is made by injection molding.
- 19.) (original) The ear coupler according to claim 17, wherein said ear
coupler is made by thermoforming.

- 20.) (previously amended) The ear coupler according to claim 18 or 19, wherein the means for attaching the ear coupler to a subject's head is a flexible flange, coated with adhesive, disposed around said chamber.
- 21.) (original) The ear coupler according to claim 20, wherein said body is transparent.
- 22.) (previously amended) The ear coupler according to claim 20, additionally comprising a tab integral with said highly flexible flange.
- 23.) (original) The ear coupler according to claim 21, additionally comprising a target to aid in placing the coupler over the subject's ear.
- 24.) (original) An ear coupler comprising:
an annular side wall;
a bottom wall, integral with said annular side wall;
an internal chamber, formed by said bottom wall and said annular side wall;
a port in said annular side wall for receiving an acoustic transducer assembly, said port sized so as to create an interference fit with said acoustic transducer assembly; and
a means for removably attaching the ear coupler to a subject's head.

25.) (previously amended) An ear coupler comprising:
an annular side wall;
a bottom wall, connected with said annular side wall;
an internal chamber, formed by said bottom wall and
said annular side wall;
a port in said annular side wall; and
a highly flexible flange connected with and
substantially circumscribing said annular side wall,
said flexible flange being coated with an adhesive for
attaching the ear coupler to a subject's head.

26.) (original) An ear coupler comprising:
an annular side wall;
a bottom wall, integral with said annular side wall;
an internal chamber, formed by said bottom wall and
said annular side wall;
a port in said annular side wall; and
an acoustic transducer assembly adapted to mate with
said annular side wall in an either up or down
position.

27.) (previously amended) A method for assembling an ear coupler, comprising the
steps of:
providing a one-piece transparent body, said body
having an annular side wall, a bottom wall, and a
flexible flange;
defining a port for entry of an acoustic transducer
assembly in said annular side wall; and
dispensing an adhesive on said flexible flange.

- 28.) (original) The method according to claim 27, additionally comprising providing for surface features in said bottom wall.
- 29.) (original) The method of claim 28, additionally comprising providing for ribs in said annular side wall.
- 30.) (new) An ear coupler assembly comprising:
 an annular side wall;
 a bottom wall, attached to said annular side wall;
 an internal chamber, formed by said bottom wall and said annular side wall;
 a port in said annular side wall, said port having a longitudinal axis extending into and out of said port;
 and
 an acoustic transducer assembly capable of being releasably attached to said port so that a portion of said assembly extending from said port is generally perpendicular to said longitudinal axis.
- 31.) (new) A method of preparing an ear coupler for use in hearing evaluation, comprising:
 providing an ear coupler assembly according to claim 30; and
 attaching said acoustic transducer assembly to said port so that a portion of said acoustic transducer assembly is generally perpendicular to said longitudinal axis.

32.) (new)

An ear coupler assembly comprising:

an annular side wall;
a bottom wall, attached to said annular side wall;
an internal chamber, formed by said bottom wall and
said annular side wall;
a port in said annular side wall; and
an acoustic transducer assembly, wherein said
acoustic transducer assembly has an arm, and
wherein said arm extends laterally away from said
port when said acoustic transducer assembly is fitted
in said port.

33.) (new)

A method of preparing an ear coupler for use in hearing
evaluation, comprising:

providing an ear coupler assembly according to claim
32; and
attaching said acoustic transducer assembly to said
port so that said arm extends laterally away from said
port.
